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Spies under contract

✓ We have not yet seen the movie "Topaz," but we can still sympathize with the Russians. The Soviet chargé d'affaires in Copenhagen (where the film was made) has handed the Danish Government an official complaint about the way in which two Danish policemen portrayed Russian agents. The Russian official said, somewhat plaintively we feel, "They did it in such a clumsy way. We could have done better ourselves."

Tucking our tongue firmly in our cheek, we find this Russian statement encouraging. It tempts us to the interpretation that the Soviet secret service is now more concerned with its agents'

images than it is with their work. And this leads to the big question: If the Russians are so anxious that their spies be portrayed accurately, would they be willing to lend Hollywood a few each time a spy-movie is made?

It is hard to think of anything which could do more to end the perennial criticism of Hollywood that it never shows "real life." Imagine being able to advertise thrillers as starring "master-minds straight from the official Soviet spy apparatus." Instead of Russian spies being kicked out of America, they would be welcomed in with fat contracts and top billings.